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MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF THE
MADRAS
REPORTERS'
GUILD

MADRAS

NEWSMAN

IN THIS ISSUE

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ROYAL SOCIETY AWARD

The Royal Society of Arts proposes to award a Silver Medal and Diploma to an individual journalist to be selected from any Commenwealth Country excluding the United Kingdom, The Commonwealth Press Union (Indian Section) has announced.

The award will be made to a working journalist, properly accredited to an established newspaper, periodical or news agency, who, in the opinion of the Judges appointed by the Society, best fulfils the following conditions:

"Has, during the last three years, made the most distinguished contribution to the highest standards of his profession both by the quality, accuracy and objectivity of his work and, by his example, has best promoted amongst his own people a closer understanding and appreciation of the problems and achievements of his Country and of The Commenwealth as a whole."

Applications are to be forwarded to Major N. Sarkar, Secretary, Commonwealth Press Union (Indian Section), c/o Amrita Bazar Patrika City Office, Chowringhee Square, Calcutta, 13, before November 30, 1960.

EDITORIAL BOARD

S. Ramanathan (The Mail); D. V. Vasudevan (The Hindu); V. S. Padmanabhan (The Mail), R. Narasimhan (The Hindu); K. Madhavan Nair (The Mail) N. S. Parthasarathy (Mitran); P. K. Gupta (P. T. I.); B. S. Padmanabhan (The Hindu); C. N. Ramachandran (Times of India) R. Ramachandra Iyer (Indian Express); R. V. Sowli (The Hindu); S. Namachivayam (Nava India)

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The Cover Page: Distinguished guests at the Third Anniversary of the Guild on Sept. 4 glancing through the Newsman Second Annual Issue released by Mr. R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries.

[All photos in this Issue by Mr. V. Ganapathi]

NEWSMAN

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD

Volume 3 — SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1960 — Number 2

Guild Celebrates Third Anniversary: Minister Releases Newsman Annual

A LITTLE known fact about Madras reporters was brought to light at the third annual meeting of the Reporters' Guild held on September 4 at Woodlanads, Mylapore. It was that these men who are "jack of all trades and master of some" and who constitute the kingpin in the newspaper mechanism, started their career as reporters and retired or died as reporters. That these versatile men who weilded enormous influence in all sectors of society should just be the Cinderellas in the Fourth Estate, surprised and stupified the distinguished visitors at the meeting.

Both Dr. A. L. Mudaliar who presided, and Mr. R. Venkataraman Minister for Industries, who released the Second Annual number of NEWSMAN paid the oftrepeated encomium that Madras pressmen were equal to any in the world, and that in the matter of accuracy and straight reporting, their courterparts elsewhere could hardly hold a candle to them. Showering of this high praise on Reporters in juxtaposition with the fact that in spite of all their achievements, they stagnated in this very dynamic profession, sounded as tragic irony. Particularly in Madras, no reporter had ever risen above the level of a Chief Reporter. The managements of newspapers here seemed to think that the Chiefdom should be the be-all and end-all of the reporter's aspirations and ambitions. He cannot think of becoming a news editor, much less a leader-writer. The reporter through whose constant efforts all the news of the world pours into the press day and night and on whose ability depends the reputation of a newspaper is hardly considered fit for such high offices in the newspaper set-up!

Dr. A. L. Mudaliar and Mr. R. Venkataraman, made an impassioned plea to newspaper managements to set right this anamolous situation and make the best use of the multifarious abilities and talents of the reporters in the interest of the newspaper industry itself.

The two leaders who always sit on opposite sides in the Legislative Council "crossed the floor" for once, sat side by side and expressed identical views on the efficiency of the reporting fraternity in Madras and stressed the need for putting their talents to greater use by allowing the reporters to grow to their full stature.

They agreed that reporters could mend or mar the reputation of a politician and were on that score much sought after by this ubiquitous tribe who had to keep themslves in the limelight without getting their black and blind spots highlighted.

While both Dr. Mudaliar and Mr. Venkataraman endorsed the Secretary's call to newspaper managements to provide greater scope of promotion for reporters, the Vice-Chancellor went further and asked the Government to explore the possibility of deputing newsmen to go abroad to countries which are "in the cauldron"—to watch and report to the Indian Government and people the political, economic and social changes these nations were undergoing. He said on-the-spot study by Reporters, who are the most competent to do it, would help the Government in reshaping the country's destiny in the proper direction and the people to know of the vital changes taking place in other parts of the globe.

Mr. R. Venkataraman pinpointed on the pivotal role played by newsmen in translating the hopes and aspirations of the nation and enlightening the people on their responsibilities and obligations in the growing socialist democracy. He laid great stress on the function of the reporter as reflector of that clusive thing called "public opinion".

Dr. Mudaliar brought to the fore a very refreshing feature of reporting which is sadly lacking at any rate in this part of the country. He exhorted reporters to pen-portray the atmosphere of deliberations, instead of merely stenographing the speeches.

The gathering which literally jampacked the air-conditioned room at the Hotel on that day was select and the food served later in the bamboo-canopied hall under the roof garden was sumptuous. The distingused visitors present on the occasion were: Dr. Thomas W. Simons, U. S. Consul-General in Madras, Mr. M. E. Allen, Deputy High Commissioner for the U. K. in Madras, Dr. Gerhard Fischer Consul for Federal Republic of Germany in Madras. Dr. Werwie, Director, Max Mueller Bharan, Mr. R. Sadasivam, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Mr. F. W. Bustin, Regional Information officer, B.I.S, Mrs. Mary Clubwalla Jadhav, M.L.C., Mr. Orval B. Hopkins, Information officer, U. S. I.S., Mr. P. S. Kailasam, Public Prosecutor, Mr. T. Hanumanthappa, Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Mr. C. D. Natarajan, Secretary, Legislative Council besides prominent Journalists of city Newspapers, Industrialists and P.R.O.S.

Dr. P. Subbaroyan, Union Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam. Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam Mr. P. Kakkan, State Ministers, Dr. U. Krishna Rau, Speaker, Legislative Assembly and Mr. Michael Stephens, B.B.C. reprentative in Delhi were among those who sent messages of good wishes.

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To cover foreign news:

INDIAN PRESS MUST ASSIGN THEIR STAFFMEN

— Dr. A. L. Mudaliar

Presiding over the third anniversary of the Madras Reporters' Guild, at Woodlands hotel Mylapore on Sep. 4. Dr. A. Lakshmanasami Mudaliar Vice-chancellor, Madras University said :—

Reference has been made to the fact that the two of us now sitting on the same side of the table, in another place have necessarily to sit on opposite sides. I am not surprised because both of us are interested to move with the reporters. When I accepted your invitation, I said I was one of you as the Vice-Chancellor who has introduced a course in journalism at the Madras University. I am glad indeed that course is popular. Newspapers in the City have given every encouragement to the University in instituting and running the course. I would appeal to them again that they should take youngmen into the papers and get them trained in the journalism course which they themselves are best fitted to direct.

I do not like you to be called a reporter, because it does not signify all that you stand for. I am at present not able to give you an alternative name. You not only report but you have got many other things to do. One of the most important things in any Press is not only conveyance of news but also to prepare the ground for national interest in the many problems with which we are faced. That work is done by a reporter and not by a sub-editor or editor. When I take a paper, I read the reporter's news first —to be very candid and frank — then the editorials, but reporting of so many things are of vital interest to the people.

Best from the South

I must frankly state that—and what everybody is agreed from the Himalyas to the Cape Camorin — the best reporters in this country are the reporters trained in the South. You will find them in all important positions in the Lok Sabha, in the Rajya Sabha and many of the other councils and legislatures of different States, playing a very vital role in reporting. It has been a surprising fact to many foreign correspondents how accurately our reporters are able to cover the speeches.

Those of us who sit in the Legislative Council have an eye on the reporters also and see whether they follow us or whether they have gone to sleep. The unconscious audience that stimulates us very often is the reporting section. Atleast I confess to that weakness (laughter) I must also say that the time has come when the Reporters' Guild and reporters themselves have to realise their greater responsibilites in the national life of the country. I would like you to remember that it is not only the speeches that have got to be reported but the very atmosphere of the discussion that has got to be brought home. I do wish some young body of reporters will try to see that they also draw pen pictures of the proceedings which will give a permanent record not only of the individuals but also of the atmosphere in which the discussions took place.

In the national interest I think it is time that the great papers in the country consider the necessity for deputing their men to different parts of the world to study the situations. I deeply regret that excepting in one or two instances—I may be wrong, there may be more—none of the reporters are sent out to study these conditions in different parts of the world. Here is the Middle East, where events are occurring in a way that is amazing to us, events that will have a natural bearing on our own national activities; here is Africa in the cauldron, with which we are most vitally interested in more than one sense... Indonesia...not to speak of the other parts of the world The iron curtain countries it may not be so very easy, still there is a lot to be learnt. As regards the several south American countries—I am sorry to state, that we are not in a position to know what is happening there. They have vital interests on our own national prosperity. The world is shrinking and time and distance have been vanquished. Unless a wider view is taken of the role that the press has to play in getting valuable and correct impressions of these various incidents that are occurring with kalediscopic rate, I am afraid we shall not serve the public in the manner in which we should serve them.

It is time we considered in the economic, political, social and even educational spheres, what is taking place in other countries; then only we shall be in a better position to know whal the world is doing. Then only we shall be able to reorganise our country in this or that respect. I do hope your organisation would be really concerned

(See inside back cover)

"NEWSPAPERS MUST INTERPRET THOUGHTS & WISHES OF PEOPLE"

[Releasing the Second Annual Number of NEWSMAN, Mr. R Venkataraman, Minister for Industries said Newspapers had not only to purvey news but also should interpret the thoughts and wishes of the people.

Paying tribute to Madras Reporters he said the profession of reporting is more difficult than that of any other section of the Press]

The Minister said:

I am very happy to be here with you. Reporters have been close friends of mine for over a quarter of a century now. The first person who came and saw me in jail when I was arrested was a reporter!

Now it is not an occasion to deliver a very long address on platitudes like freedom of information, the need to sustain it, the various curbs which are being placed on it and so on, but it is yet a proper occasion when we ought to remind ourselves of the sacredness of the task which we perform to the society.

To-day with a democratic set-up, with a Government which is representative of the general will of the people of the country, the function of newspapers is a little more than merely furnishing information on various items of interest. The function of newspapers now is also to interpret the thoughts and wishes which get embedded in the minds of the people and yet did not find expression.

When Rousseu talked of the general will of people as the basis for good Government, he meant not the vociferous or vocal expressions but the thoughts which are felt by the vast majority of the people in relation to any particular problem which they themselves struggled very hard to express. It is the highest duty of the newspaper profession to bring out to the surface the hopes and aspirations of the people, the thoughts and desires which they themselves find it difficult to express.

This is what I consider the most difficult part in a democracy. All of us really want to do things according to the wishes of the people but no science has so far manufactured any instrument which could make an individual read the real wishes of the people, In fact, when we talk of the wishes of the people, the people themselves belong to different sections and strata of society. Very often the wishes of some contradict the desires of others. And yet out of this conflict, there is always an underlying current of common agreement which lies beneath the surface, which is very difficult to unearth and which requires extraordinary talent to bring out to the surface. That I consider as the highest and noblest aspect of the profession.

Mr. R. Venkataraman releasing Newsman Second Annual Issue.

That elusive thing

We go to a meeting, we hear speeches delivered and we also see the reactions of the people differing very widely. If one were merely to report certain reactions which he has heard, you will find that he has not really reported the general consensus of opinion. If he only reported the speeches of the persons who now unfortunately are increasing in number and who deliver long, long orations without anything to report in them, you will find he has not conveyed anything to the people. The reporter's task is therefore one which is very difficult, which is very independent and which, if properly discharged, will really go to help the formulation of that very elusive thing called public opinion.

Now as a politician who always depends on reporter, I may say a few words Reporters can make or mar a politician: if one is misquoted half a dozen times he would dig the political grave of that politician. The difficulty is not that one has any ill-will towards the speaker, but it is in the environment in which one finds oneself that leads to certain wrong inferences. Once I was reported to have exhorted the people to go to cinemas as often as possible. What I said was that if the people went to cinemas more often then the revenue of the State by way of entertainment tax will grow. Occasions like this very often occur. It is one thing when a reporter interviews a VIP when chances of misreporting are less. But when a reporter reports the conversation or interview between two persons, the answers given by one of them in reply to questious put by the other will have to be reported along

(*See page 8*)

The Secretary pleads for

Greater Opportunities for Staff Reporters

Mr. S. Ramanathan, Secretary garlanding Dr. A. L. Mudaliar

Welcoming the guests, Mr. S. Ramanathan ("*The Mail*") Secretary of the Guild said. "It is a day of jubilation for us in that not only has the Guild completed three years of useful service to the profession, but also it synchronises with the completion of two years of publication of our monthly Journal *Newsman.*

It is our good fortune that on this happy occasion we have with us not only two eminent sons of South India, Dr. A. L Mudaliar and Mr. R. Venkataraman, but also a number of our good friends and well-wishers who had responded to our invitation today.

I must say that our two chief guests are today on a platform, when they cannot possibly disagree on anything-either on the need for, and the vital role of an independent, free and virile Press in a democracy like India, or on the pivotal position that Reporters, more than any other section of journalists, occupy in the newspaper profession.

Reporters, however small their wage pockets, however small the circulation of their paper, are nevertheless the mainstay of newspapers and on their powers of perception, their ability to observe happenings around them, their capacity to record what they had seen heard or legistimate grounds to infer, depend the very existence of a democratic free society. The Reporter, it has been said ' does much more than reporting. Journalism would not be his profession if it was a mere recording network of events. He is a primary force in our daily life, a force that transmits, explains and sometimes originates a world-wide flow of current events and ideas—He is no demi-god, but he is a reporter on your Daily Newspaper." All over the world wherever something is happening that you ought to know, there is a man watching and listening, for you,

None can deny that the Reporter constitutes a vital limb of the journalistic fraternity and all the news of the world is continuously poured into the Press by the Reporters' toil, comprehension and analysis.

Guild's aims

A word about the Guild. For many years reporters in the City used to discuss their own peculiar and special problems at street corners, or in Press Rooms, wherever they were available. Many felt the need for an organisation like the Guild to forge links of *camaraderie* and good fellowship among Newsmen and between Newsmen and those who make or break the news. There also was another provocation, and the Guild was born in April 1957—not as a rival to any other organization of journalists, but to "stand guard on the special rights and privileges of the reporting community, to make up for their lack of safety in numbers, to weave a programme of development of the reporters' personality and the advancement of the profession."

In Aug. 1957 Mr. K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, inaugurated the Guild and in Aug. 1958 the *Newsman* was born, to provide an effective way of realising our cherished objectives and to promote higher standards and techniques of the profession.

In the past three years we have made a tremendous advance, although I must voice the feeling of many that we have still much to do. We require the co-operation, sympathy and understanding not only of all the reporters in the profession, but also those connected with the professiou in any capacity, readers, news sources,

(See Page 12)

• CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME •

Mr. N. S. Parthasarathy
"*Swadesamitran*" *said*:

"As a member of the Panel of Chairman of the Madras Reporters' Guild, I have been accorded this pleasant privilege of welcoming you all to this, the third anniversary of the Guild.

We are indeed fortunate in having in our midst today two illustrious personages who have distinguished themselves eminently not only in this country but in international spheres also.

A doyen of the medical profession in our country, an eminent educationist and an administrator of exceptional abilities and drive, Dr A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar's contribution in the social, educational, economic and political fields both at the national and international levels, has been remarkable, of which South India could be legitimately proud.

Many of us, Sir, gathered here today are proud to be the alumni of a University which had been fortunate in having a Vice-Chancellor of your stature and versatility, consecutively for nearly two decades, an honour unique in the history of any University. A staunch upholder of traditions and standards in every field of activity, you, Sir, have earned the esteem and admiration of every right-thinking

(See Inside back cover)

A Governor's Press Conference

A graphic description of a Press Conference held by Governor Earl Long of Louisiana is given in the following extracts from an article written by Mr. A. J. Liebling in the NEW YORKER (June 1960). The article entitled " A Reporter at Large " was the second in a series of three, on Louisiana politics.

THE Governor's Mansion, where Earl was to hold his press conference, is, like Capital, a monument to the administration of Huey Long. The story goes that Martyr, when he gave the architect his riding orders, said he wanted a replica of the White House, so he would feel at home when he got to be President—would know where the light switches were in the bathrooms, and so on. Huey lived in lt from 1930 to 1932, and Earl first inhabited it briefly in 1939, when he filled out the term of Governor Richard Leche, who had suffered the accident of conviction by a federal court. (Leche is the man who once said, "They talk about the bird that fouls its own nest, but Earl is the bird that kicks over its own apple cart.") Earl lived in the Mansion again as Governor from 1948 to 1952, and had begun a third tenancy in 1956. When I saw it, Longs had been masters of the house for ten of the twenty nine years of its existence. Tom and I drove out to it with Margaret Dixon, managing editor of the Baton Rouge *Advocate* and one of the few people in Louisiana who could usually get along with the Governor. Mrs. Dixon—handsome, stable, and strong—has a firm, serene personality. She is the kind of woman to whom drunks turn instinctively when they want to talk about their troubles with their wives. " Earl is the funniest man in the world," she said. " Life in the capital would be dull without him. Did you hear what he said to Leander Perez, the states-rights man, the other day? 'What are you going to do now, Leander? The Feds have got the atom bomb.' He has a style all his own—he's a poet. He said he was so groggy when he got off the plane that took him to Texas that he 'felt like a muley bull coming out of a dipping vat.' He praises Huey up, but he never misses a chance to crow when he does something better. In 1956, when he won the Governorship on the first primary—without a run-off—the first thing he said was, 'Huey never done that.'

We arrived at the Mansion half an hour before the appointed time for the press conference. The laurel-borderd driveway was packed with reporters' cars. Inside, the press had taken over, as if a first-class murder had just occured and the cops were still upstairs. Turning left inside the fan-lighted door, we went down a couple of steps into a great reception room that was furnished like a suite in a four-star general's house on an Army post, where the furniture comes out of Quartermaster stores. The bleakness of such pieces increases in proportion to the square of their sum: two hotel sofas are four times as depressing as one. The Governor's drawing room, of good height and proportions, contained at least twenty-six paired pieces all covered with pink or green brocade chosen for its wearing quality. The mauve curtain were of the tint and gloss of that spun-sugar candy that is usually filled with rancid peanut paste, and the carpets were of a flushed beige. There were three chandeliers, a blackamoor candelabrum, two wall mirrors reflecting each other, and no pictures. There was not a piece of furniture from before 1930, nor a portrait of a former Governor or his lady. It made a perfect waiting room—a place in which boredom began in the first ten seconds.

At four-thirty, half an hour after the conference was to begin, the Governor's press secretary, a nervous former state senator named Fredricks, appeared at the top of the two steps. He announced that the Governor's party had telephoned from the road; they were still about fifty miles from town, and the Governor had given orders to serve cake and coffee to the reporters and tell them to wait. Negro servants in white jackets passed around coffee and spongecake, both good. Another half hour went by, and a reporter started canvasssng his colleagues to see if they would join him in a walkout. He proposed that everybody go off and leave the Governor flat—insult to the press, showing

Hon. Mr. R. Venkataraman and Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, scanning the Annual Issue of NEWSMAN at the Guild Anniversary on Sept. 4.

up so late—and let him know where he stood. His colleagues, knowing where he stood, paid no heed. Another hour passed. Finally, the Governor and his party arrived. The representatives of the communications arts, including me, pressed around the steps leading down to the big room, but state troopers shoved us back, and the Governor headed straight upstairs, to "wash up and be right back" A minute later, word came down that he was going to shave. The Negroes served more coffee, this time without cake. Nobody talked of leaving now. A reporter with good connections learned the cause of the long delay from a state cop who had ridden in the convoy. "Governor stopped at a few farms along the way to buy some guinea hens, but he couldn't get the right price on them," the cop said.

Forty-five minutes more, and the Governor made his entrance. He hadn't shaved. He was wearing a black mohair ruite ven less elegently adjusted than the one at Alick, and a sober necktie of black with atomic-bomb mushrooms in olive and grey. He sat down in the middle of long sofa that had its back to the cold fireplace. There, cressing his legs, which showed off his white cotton socks, he faced his familiar persecutors with the air of a country Odysseus from a rough trip. He clearly did not miss Penelope.

Somebody asked him if he was set on going through with the special Session of the legislature, and he said that he was—the call would go out before five o'clock the next day. That was the latest moment he could legally call a session for the following Monday. He had to include with the call a list of the legislation he meant to propose—nothing else could be voted at the session—and he said he was readying his list.

A reporter asked him if would include any new tax bill, and he said no, but that he would try for some new taxes at the next regular session. Then he began to lay into the rich people, who "wanted to cut out the spastic school" but the reporters, who had heard that number in his repertory before, maneged to turn him off.

"Governor," one of them queried "what is your personal opinion of who is going to win this election?"

"I am," the seated orator replied without hesitation. "Uncle Earl. It's going to be a case of Katy bar the door Little old Dellasoups Morrison will be second."

"And third?" pursued the questioner.

"Jimmie Davis, if he stays in the race," Uncle Earl said. ', And little Willie Rainach and Big Bad Bill Dodo a dog-fall for fourth."

There was a good deal of discourse that I never got around to recording. Carried away on the steam of idiom like a drunk on a subway train, I missed a lot of stations. The Governor freshened as he talked, and his voice gained strength. somebody asked him what he thought of Henry Luce, whose publications had been picking on him. "Mr. Luce is like a fellow that owns a shoe store and buys all the shoes to fit himself," he said. "Then he expects other people to wear them."

This was the best line I'd yet heard from the Governor, and I put all my admiration in my glance and edged my chair up the end of his sofa. The Governor's gaze, swinging about the room, stopped when it lit on me. I inched forward and said, "Governor, I came all the way down here from New York to see you, and one of the things I'd like to find out is your system for beating the horses.

An expression of modest disclaimer came over the cocky old face. "I got no particular system," he said. "I think I'm doing good to break even. I think horse-betting should be dissected —into them that can affiord it and them that can't. I think if you can afford it, it's a good thing to take your mind off your troubles and keep you out in air."

"Do you play speed ratings?" I asked.

The Governor, in his eagerness to talk simultaneously about all phases of handicapping, choked up—it was the bronchiectasis—and began to cough Quickly, I offered him a lemon drop and he accepted it. That, as in the other Arab countries, conjured his good will—he had partaken of my salt, or, in its lieu, of what the wrapper catalogued as my sugar, corn syrup, true fruit flavour, and citric acid. The bronchiectasis struggled with the lemon drop for a moment, and then yielded. "Y'all stay and eat," he said to me. "Y'all stay, too," he added to Mrs. Dixon and Tom and a couple of the other press people, "There's a plenty." I imagined he had a great surplus of super-market bargains in the larder. "Just sit here and wait. . Me and my advisers got a lot to talk about."

The reporters and television men who had deadlines were already clearing out. Earl shouted after them, "Y'all come back and I'll say this!" But they, who had waited for him so long, had had enough.

Role of Professional Organisations

The high cost of transmitting Press messages, frontier formalities and "political barriers" are among the obstacles impeding the free flow of information listed in in a handbook published by the UNESCO recently.

The handbook "Professional Association in Mass Media" declares "censorship, imprisonment of correspondents, denial of access to sources of news, seizure or suppression of information enterprises, these and other restrictions have met with vigorous counteraction on the part of professional organisations. Their efforts and particularly by those of international associations in the Press field have often been influential in reversing or tempering decisions of individual Governments".

"GUIDED PRESS" IN INDONESIA

In Indonesia, it was announced recently that regulations to transform the country's press into a "guided Press under guided democracy" would soon be implemented.

According to a news agency report from Jakarta recommendations of the "guidance Committee" led by Col. Basuke Rachmat have been submitted to the President.

Col. Rachmat said there would be negative actions as well as positive actions. Under negative actions were generally understood curbing actions against the Press which was "On the other side of the fence of State principles" which could mean banning opposition papers.

Col. Rachmat also stated that positive actions would be "a well planned indoctrination programme of both Press and the public".

—o—

CEYLON PRESS TAKE-OVER

The decision of the Ceylon Government to appoint a commission to inquire into the functioning of the island's Press in connection with the recent general elections and to introduce legislation to take over the newspapers controlled by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon and the *Times of Ceylon* was announced by Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Governor-General in his address to the first session of the new Parliament in Augnst.

The Governor General in his Throne speech, indicated that the newspapers taken over would be vested in statutory public corporations with unlimited share capital in which individual holdings would be restricted so as to ensure a broad-based ownership.

"This legislation will ensure the democratic character of newspapers in this country and prevent abuse by the formation of unhealthy monopolies", declared Sir Oliver Goonetilleke.

Government Intrusion

The proposal evoked strong protest from the Internatlonal Press Institute and criticism from many members in Ceylon Parliament.

The IPI said that whatever form the legislation might take, the Government, under the guise of broadening the ownership meant to exercise direction over a Press which had opposed it politically in the last elections. "Government intrusion into newspaper ownership and forced sale of newspaper interests will mean the end of Press freedom and can only undermine confidence in this Government's intention to maintain that democracy which the people of Ceylon have so far enjoyed", the IPI communique said.

In the House of Representatives, strong opposition to the proposals was voiced on August 24 despite the Prime Minister's explanation that their intention was not to take over and control the national Press but to vest the management of the papers in public corporations so that the people at large might have a say in shaping the policies of newspapers. The leader of the Federal Party Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam said that it was not the democratic way of dealing with their opponents. Members of the United National Party also opposed the plan to take over the Press,

Meanwhile, on September 15, the Times of Ceylon Ltd., which has been a private company for the last 114 years issued a statement that it had become a public company. The statement said that the Prime Minister was kept informed of all the steps taken by the company to convert itself into a broad-based public company in which the existing shareholders would be a small minority. The company in its letters had requested that the Government should advice the Board of Directors whether the proposed steps were acceptable as conforming to the Government's policy. It was also made clear that if there were any modifications which the Government required to be made, if it was to accept the proposed arrangement as satisfying the Government policy, the Board would be glad to give such modifications their careful consideration. But no reply had yet been received.

In a statement issued to the Press, soon after, Mr. F. D, Bandaranayake, Finance Minister and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs which has been entrusted with the task of drafting the proposed legislation, said "It has been brought to the notice of the Prime Minister that the existing newspaper corporations are talking various steps to frustrate the objective of the Government as stated in the Throne Speech. One newspaper Corporation has informed the Prime Minister by two letters that it proposed to become a public company with a share capital of Rs. 3,000,000. The other newspaper corporation proposes to dispose of its assets to four new companies to be formed by the same body of directors."

"I should make it quite clear that whatever action may be taken by the newspaper corporations, the Government does not propose to deviate from its declared policy on the subject. Any alienation of property that may be made or any new investment of share capital by the public in these corporations will always be subject to the provisions of the proposed legislation" he added.

According to a computation made by Mr. Tarzie Vittachi, Asian Representative of the International Press Institute, Zurich, the total figure of circulation of all Newspapers in Asia came to 45 millions per day, excluding China. Of this, the total circulation in Japan alone was about 36 millions. For the rest of Asia, they had the balance, which worked out at the rate of one newspaper per thousand people. In Kerala, according to his computation, there was one paper for every 30 persons.

PROTESTS GALORE!

Among the protests made was this cable sent by Gavin Astor, Chairman of *The Times* and chairman of council of the Commonwealth Press Union, to Mrs Sirma Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon:

"*The Commonwealth Press Union views with deep concern the proposals of your Government relative to the Press of Ceylon.*

"In our opinion these proposals if implemented will deny to the subject his fundamental right of access to sources of information outside Government Control.

"We further believe that the proposals are inconsistent with representative Government and will be injurious to the reputation of Ceylon throughout the Commonwealth."

A protest was made by the headquarters of the International Press Institute. The chairman of the British section, Charles Fenby, editorial director of Westminister Press Provincial Newspapers Ltd, this week told *WPN & Advertiser Review*:

"Ther is still a slight chance of saving the independent Press of Ceylon if the world protest is strong enough. The Ceylon newspapers have not given in under the threat and are fighting back by reporting all that is being said abroad about the take-over. The British press could hardly have been more outspoken in condemning the proposal, but anything more will be warmly welcomed"

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TRIBUTE TO THE REPORTERS' GUILD

Contd. from Page 3

with the questions. for the answers will be in relation to the questions put and reporting of answers alone will not therefore make any sense.

More Difficult

Occasions like this do occur and you will find that some sort of conflict develops unconsciously between the people in public life and the reporters. The politician always develops a feeling that he has been misreported all the time. But I have known statesmen who have quarrels even with the tape-record. The fault is also with the person who, with a background of his own, says only partially what he wants to say and then the misreporting occurs. I am saying all these things merely to show that the profession of reporting is more difficult than that of any other section of the Press.

Versatality

The reporter has to command a very wide and versatile knowledge. Without knowledge and background it is not possible to report. He will not be able to report the spirit of a conference or discussion unless he has the background knowledge of the subject. Since we have the same reporters to do all typcs oi reporting work, they develop versatility, at least of the basic principles, so that when report they will be able to convey the spirit of a of a discussion. It is therefore necessary that the Press particularly, those in cnarge of the management, should try to choose men for the reporting section with a wide interest, varied knwledge and versatility that will help them to handle any subject.

Reporting the Assembly proceedings is very simple because it is in respect of certain set procedures. Very often the answers to questions are writien and give in advance. Occasionally, if somebody makes a mistake in reporting the supplementary questions nothing is gained or lost. Nevertheless reporting the proceedings of the Legislature Is a very important aspect of your work.

More Newspapers

To-day, with growing literacy in the country a large number of small papers have come out and I say it is a very healthy sign. I hope a larger number of papers would come into being so that the people would be enabled to choose their own papers and try to equip themselves for the task which they owed to the countcy. With the increase in the newspapers, you should have a corresponding increase in the number of competent men who can do the job. If we merely increase the papers without competent personnel to man them, the standard of papers will go down. So, it is urgent now that an organisation like yours should try to formulate good standards for reporting. And these standards should be accepted by the people in charge of the Press. A Professional organisation like yours is certainly one of the adjuncts to good newspaper industry. Without the professional organisation, competent to give advice and discuss dispassionately the problems, the newspaper industry itself will suffer or lack proper guidance, After all, it is only by exchange of ideas that man progresses. It is only by difference of opinion that we stimulate more thought and greater devotion to the subject. It would be, at any rate for me, a very sorry world if all of us agree with the rest of the people all the time.

The Reporters' Guild has been doing excellent service in the State particularly. We have always had the utmost cordial relations between the Reporters' Guild and the Government and, individually, between myself and the reporters.

The occasion has been utilised for releasing the *Newsman*, journal of your Guild. I see that it contains very valuable articles from people who are experts in the line. I am quite sure it will stimulate further thought and discussion on these matters. I have great privilege in releasing the *Newsman*.

PERSONALIA

Mr. V. P. V. Rajan, News Editor, "The Mail", Mr. G. Venkataraman, Assistant News Editor, "The Hindu", and Mr. S. Arunayappan, News Editor, "Nava India" wlll attend the I. P. I. Seminar for News Editors of Asian Newspapers, to be held at New Delhi from Nov. 7.

Mr. K. Rajendran of 'Kalki' has left for the United Kingdom for a four week study tour at the invitation of the Commonwealth Relations Office, U.K.

Mr. T. D. Parthasarathy who covered the Rome Olympics for 'The Hindu' returned to the city in October first week after visiting London.

Mr. D. V. Vasudevan, 'The Hindu', and Mr. Satyamurthi of 'Nava Sakthi' covered the tour of Mr. K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister of North Arcot and Chingleput Districts.

Mr. R. K. K. Menon, "The Mail" covered the opening of the Seshasayee Paper Boards by Mr. Lal Bahadur Sastri at Pallipalayam and the Insulator Factory at Vadalur.

Mr. V. S. Padmanaban 'The Mail' covered the inauguration near Alwaye, of the third plant for the manufacture of transparent cellulose film of Travancore Rayons by Mr. V. V. Giri, Kerala Governor.

Mr. B. S. Padmanaban, 'The Hindu', covered the inauguration by Chief Minister Kamaraj at Mettur, of the Mettur Tunnel Scheme in August Mr. G. N. Srinivasan, 'The Hindu' covered the visit of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to Salem.

ADD to your PRESTIGE By an Ad., in NEWSMAN

INSIDE STORY:

How Nasser Grabbed The Press

President Nasser's nationalization of the already captive Cairo press is a mystifying act of doctrinaire violence. It can hardly help but impair the effectiveness of his own propaganda machine and whatever confidence his regime enjoyed in business and journalistic circles at home and abroad.

The Republican Decree of May 24 transferred ownership of Cairo's four largest and oldest private publishing houses to the government-sponsored National Union, sole political organization permitted in the United Arab Republic. Owners of the concerns—*al-Ahram, Akbhar el-Yom, Rose el-Yussef* and *al-Hilal*—are to be compensated in state bonds bearing three per cent interest and redeemable in twenty years.

The amount of compensation is to be determined by a three-man committee under the chairmanship of a Counsellor of the Court of Appeals with one member appointed by the National Union and the other by the ex-publisher. The committee's decision is final. This arrangement effectively empowers the government to dictate terms to the former proprietors.

The decree provides that the National Union must license any newspaper or periodical in the country except those published by "public organizations, scientific associations and trade unions."

Article 2 of the decree stipulates that "it is not permissible for any person to work in the press unless he obtains a permit from the National Union." Every UAR citizen now engaged in journalism must obtain a permit within forty days of the date the decree became law.

Applications for permits to practise journalism or publish a newspaper or magazine must be personally approved by Lieut. Col. Abdul Kader Hatem, National Union press director and Deputy Minister for Presidential Affairs in Charge of Broadcasting and Information. Hatem thus becomes virtual press Czar. He already controlled UAR radio propaganda and the embryo television network.

Fifty percent of the net profits, if any, of nationalized publishing houses will go to staff members and workers. The residue is supposed to be allocated to improvements and expansion.

Most publishers and their staffs first learned of the nationalization when the government-run Middle East News Agency began moving the decree on its tickers soon after 9-30 a.m. on May 24.

Bishara Takla, playbody scion of the wealthy Lebanese family that founded *al-ahram* in 1875, sent a staff member to government headquarters for the official text of the decree.

At about 8-30 that morning Emile Zeidan, aging Lebanese co-proprietor of the Dar el-Hilal publishing house was awakened by a telephone call from Colonel Hatem informing him that his concern had been "taken over by the people."

With ready Lebanese wit, Zeidan retorted, "Well, we've been trying to do our best for 67 years. Now I hope you can do better." Then he hung up.

Both Zeidan and Takla have sizeable investments outside their publishing enterprises. They could, therefore, view the nationalization with more equanimity than Mustapha and Ali Amin, hulking twin brothers who in sixteen years built *Akhbar el-Yom* into the most successful publishing venture in Middle Eastern history.

The Amins had habitually ploughed every spare piaster back into their popular morning daily and their two mass circulation weeklies Although their father had been first Egyption Minister to Washington, the Amins started *Akhbar el-Yom* with very little capital and devoted themselves zealously to evolving a new journalistic vernacular for Arab readers.

(See next page)

LIGHTS OF PRESS FREEDOM GOING OUT!

The lights of press freedom are going out, one after the other, all over the world.

The decision of the Government of Ceylon to "nationalise" the press follows the example of Nasser's seizure of newspapers in Egypt.

In South Africa liberal-minded journalists have been imprisoned without trial. In a cordial message of thanks for London newspaper pressure which had succeeded, one released Cape Town journalist wrote: "Do not mention my letter for it might make matters worse."

Priestly influence, which tries to limit press criticism in Italy, is so powerful in Southern Ireland that, fearful of their papers being banned there, London editors print special editions which they hope will not offend the censor. Ghana, Spain, Portugal and Turkey – all behave, at least occasionally, to journalists as though they were police states. In Cuba, reporters have been kept in jail and been subject to physical violence.

"I have been manhandled and prodded by Lumumba's bayonets", cabled Arthur Cook to the *Sunday Dispatch* a few days ago.

Russia and, to different degrees, her satellite states, are dictator of printed opinion.

In France, until recently a home of freedom, de Gaulle imposes the strick orders of a oneman autocracy.

In our own country (U.K.) a new form of municipal administration by private committees has grown up since the war. And – much worse even than that—the shutting down of Parliament for weeks has resulted in a complete immunity of Ministers from cross-examination during a time of grim emergencies.

Macmillan has been indifferent to every grouse by editors while shooting them—I mean the birds—on the moors!

—W.P.N.

"Crime, Sex, Scandal"

Their product was heavily larded with crime, sex, scandal and sensation. Despite their phenomenal success, the story went in Cairo that the Amins kept themselves on such a tight financial leash that they had to apply to the *Akhbar el-Yom* cashier every time they had to pay the monthly grocery bill.

Their reputation for personal honesty helped the Amins' crusade against the corruption of the Farouk period. They welcomed the 1952 revolution and gave Nasser a degree of intelligent support that he found in few other quarters. But the Amins never abandoned their sensational recipe for success, nor did they conceal their misgivings during Nasser's deepening involvement with the Soviet bloc from 1955-58. Despite censorship the Amins continued to offer readers a unique blend of crime and anticommunism.

Nasser never wholly trusted the Amins. He seems to have suspected their pro-Western leanings although he (and the American Embassy in Cairo) used the self-made twins as advertisements for the regime every time an important American visitor came to Cairo.

On the morning nationalization was announced Mustapha Amin is said to have gone to Nasser's home and reproached the Egyptian strongman for gross ingratitude. Nasser is reported to have retorted that *Akhbar el-Yom's* flippant treatment of the news had insulted his dignity and lowered the UAR's prestige.

Whatever his real sentiments, Mustapha Amin played the game when foreign correspondents telephoned him later that day. He told them, "We supported Nasser as proprietors of *Akhbar el-Yom* and we still support him as ex-proprietors. We support anything done for the good of the country."

Strike Threat

Late that evening Nasser seems to have realized that the nationalization decree had eroked powerful reactions. Faced with a possible strike by *Akhbar el-Yom* staffers and printing workers, he allowed Mustapha Amin to be included on the board of directors of the new organization responsible for running the enterprise. Mustapha was named vice chairman of the board and Ali Amin was appointed editor. At the same time Bishara Takla was named vice chairman of the board of directors of the newly created *al-Ahram-al-Hilal* combine.

How significant such concessions will be in practice remains to be seen Former publishers may be permitted to exercise de facto operating control of nationalized publications or they may be quietly eased out as soon as popular reaction to the May 24 decree has subsided.

The reaction in press circles and the country at large was strong enough to lead Nasser to meet the editors and publishers for two and a half hours on thc evening of May 28. The President delivered a long lecture on the evils of sensationalism and what he called "perversity." The Cairo press, he said, must devote itself singlemindedly to building a "socialist, democratic and cooperative society" free of contradictions and class strife. He admonished the pressmen to forget "Hilton soirees" and concentrate on "those who work in industrial plants, those who build some structure and those who look out for their day's bread." Instead of relating the escapades of faithless society ladies, Nasser insisted, the press should write about "women who are sweating it out to earn a living and are struggling for their daily bread with courage and honor."

Nasser objected that advertisements of "various" foreign embassies "have become a fixed item of income for the papers," adding. "The country that pays gets articles published about it." He didn't mention that the countries that pay most often and most liberally are the East bloc states whose full-page ads and boilerplate propaganda fill columns in the Cairo press

To liberate journalism from what he called "the bonds of commerce." Nasser suggested the price of a paper could be raised from one to one and a half piasters (from about two to about three cents). This suggestion may have been prompted by Nasser's unprofitable experience with government-financed newspapers since the revolutionary regime first plunged into the publishing business.

Nasser invited the editors and publishers to criticize his regime provided their comments were "constructive." But he labelled as "perversity" proposals for liquidating public capital or "whispers...that the public sector is not like the private sector." He also inveighed against spurious "declarations" attributed to cabinet ministers that mislead public opinion into expecting miraculous benefits from the regime.

The Egyptian dictator had foreshadowed many of these ideas in a little noticed passage in a speeeh he gave July 23 last year. At that time he reproached the press for its trivialities and said the fledgling National Union was the proper organisation to set things right.

Talk of nationalizing the Cairo press began soon after the 1952 coup. A decree to this effect is said to have been drafted in 1958 but pigeonholed at the insistence of Mohammed Hassanein Heikal, editor of *al-Ahram* and a Nasser confidant.

Pressure for nationalization was lessened by the fact that the privately owned newspapers and magazines were obedient and effective propagators of the Nasser gospel in Egypt and throughout the Arab world. Since 1939 the Egyptian press has been subject to various form of official censorship. For most of the time since the revolution a government censor in every newspaper office has had to approve every word destined for publication. Page proofs and suggested headlines have been submitted for Nasser's personal sanction, often to the despair of dead-line-conscious editors. *(Turn over)*

SECURITY DEPOSIT FORFEITED

The Rangoon High Court on September 13 forfeited the security deposit of 25,000 kyats and the bond of the Tass correspondent E. T. Kovtuenenko who failed to appear in court to face the defa mation charge by the editor of the NATION.

In April 1959, a Tass bulletin carrried a report purported to be a reproduction of the New Delhi weekly, DELHI TIMES alleging that the editor of the NATION had received 34,0000 dollars from the American Embassy for writing to pursuade the Burmese Government to toe the SEATO line. The editor sued the Tass correspondent for defamation. The case had been postponed many a time in the last 16 months. The Tass correspondent never appeared in court except once when he came to deposit the security money.

While Egyptian officials straight-facedly denied the existence of press controls, the entire Cairo press would sing the regime's praises in almost identical paeans or attack some hapless object of Nasser's wrath with robot originality.

Only the most dedicated reader of the Cairo Press could detect differences of editorial emphasis between, for example, government-financed *al-Gomhuriya* and privately owned *al-Ahram*.

The Cairo press—government and private—gained a reputation for systematic vilification, distortion and abuse rarely equalled elsewhere in the world-News reports were revamped or rewritten on orders from military Intelligence. Independent-minded editors or reporters were quickly weeded out.

Nevertheless *Akhbar el-Yom*, *al-Ahram*, and such weeklies as *Akher Saa* and *al-Musawar* continued to command large audiences in Egypt and the rest of the Arab world. Their circulation outside Egypt reflected the low level of journalism elsewhere in the Arab world as well as the reputation the privately owned Cairo publications had gained in earlier days.

For all these reasons the nationalization decree struck the Cairo editors and publishers, not to speak of the reading public, as a thunderbolt. Three days passed before *Akhbar el-Yom* could bring itself to make the required salaams of approval. The intervening period was field with an Orwellian orgy of "gratitude" from such Nasser sycophants as Salah Salem the onetime "dancing major," now become head of the government's big *al-Tahrir* publishing house and chairman of the Press Syndicate. He cabled the President on May 24:

"You have confirmed the real meaning of the freedom of the press..."

At the same time other instruments of the regime were mobilized to praise the decree or revile its critics. The aged rector of al-Azhar University, Cairo's famous seat of Islamic learning, produced a telegram of congratulations to Nasser for "reorganizing" the press.

Even the embittered Mustapha Amin was persuaded to produce a column declaring, "We are greatly gratified at having handed over to the people a building of twelve floors. In fact we fervently wish we had handed over a 100-storey building."

Seminar For Indian Newsmen

The International Press Institute has proposed to hold a seminar for Indian working journalists in November in Delhi.

The first of its kind in Asia, the seminar is intended to help improve professional techniques. It will be followed by a similar seminar for Pakistan journalists and a series of national and regional seminars for other Asian journalists.

Eighteen working journalists chosen by zonal committees in Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Nagpur and Kerala will participate in the New Delhi seminar which will be confined to news editors.

Newsmen from India and abroad have been invited as instructors and discussion leaders on a variety of subjects including new ideas and sources of news, handling of foreign news, investigative neporting, make-op, lay-out and legal problems.

According to Mr. A. G. P. Vittachi, Asian representative of IPI, the proposed seminar had drawn wide support, especially from Kerala, Madras, Bombay and Bengal.

None of this artificially—stimulated applause could explain the real motivation for Nasser's seizure of the mainstays of the Cairo press. Some diplomats here believe it was primarily directed at breaking up a possible dangerous concentration of economic power rather than at the press itself as it existed before May 24. Nationalization of five privately owned Cairo bus lines a few hours before the press decree and reported plans for further nationalization of the transport industry lend some support to this view. On the other hand this explanation imputes a doctrinaire bias to the Nasser regime that has not often been apparent in the last eight years.

Whether Nasser has become a doctrinaire socialist is unclear but his increasing sensitivity to criticism and his concern for enhancing the prestige of the nascent National Union are indisputable. Even the faintest hint of criticism of his aims or tactics can now be expunged from the press.

Newsprint from Russia

Differences in approach to such subjects as the failure of the Paris Summit Conference, clearly noticeable before the press decree, can now also be eliminated. Cairo's most famous anticommunist monument—the Amin brothers—has now been dismantled, possibly to the satisfaction of the Russians who are expected to furnish Cairo's newsprint as they already provide Nasser with arms and materials for the Aswan High Dam,

Critical comments that may be voiced in the more or less privileged sanctuary of the first UAR parliament (scheduled to convene in July) can be more effectively withheld from the country if the press is under nnified control. Kamal ed-Din Hussein and other extremists whose redutation hangs on the success of the National Union undoubtedly have played on Nasser's suspicions of the big publishers.

None of these attempted explanations fully answers the question why Nasser would further undermine business confidence in his regime and expose himself to telling foreign criticism for such a Pyrrhic victory. The very day the press decree was issued the congress of the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers meeting in New York unanimously condemned Nasser's action as a " new and intolerable violation of freedom of the press and announced it would lay the matter before the United Nations. Many Western and Arab newspapers have commented in similar vein.

The press decree has demoralized Egyptian and Syrian newspapermen who must now find favour with the National Union bosses to continue practising their profession. Above all it has dealt another heavy blow to what was once the most articulate and is ophisticated press in the Arab world.

—I.P.I.

Secretary's plea.........

(Contd from page 4)

officials, politicians, advertisers, information officers, consular representatives and the like. I am happy to record there is today a great sense of *camaraderie* among reporters. In the last year, as during the previous two years, Get-together meetings have become not only very popular but very profitable to the members in establishing personal and informal contacts with important persons in different spheres. Although we have, alongwith other Working Journalists our own trade union probiems, the Guild being a non-trade union body is able to discuss professional subjects of special significance to reporting fraternity without rancour or bitterness.

It is true that for want of finances the Guild had not been able to expand. We want to build up our Library and Reading Room. While I should gratefully acknowledge the help from the British Information Services, the United States Information Services and other Consulates in the City and outside, and newspapers and magazines, there is still much these bodies and organisations could do. We would welcome gifts of books on Journalism and the newspaper industry and any help to build up a reference library, We would also like to provide facilities for indoor and out door games for our members. But the building, so kindly given to us by the Chief Minister at a nominal rent. is not big enough for games like table tennis. Although we made a start in outdoor games with badminton two yesrs ago, we could not continue, because an official in the Secretariat decided that we cannot continue to use the badminton court available near our premises!

The "*Newsman*" too, has weathered many a storm. Being one, which cannot in the very nature of things possibly have a very wide circulation to boast about in tariff cards, we have to depend on casual advertisements of class advertisers. We need greater advertisement support to make our Monthly issues self-supporting. for it is not our intention to try for profits.

The second annual Number of 48 pages which our Hon. Minister is releasing today is a bumper issue. I must thank all the advertisers who so readily gave us their support and to all those who contributed articles. A word of special thanks are due to Mr. Orval Hopkins of the U. S. I. S. Mr. F. W. Bustin of the B. I. S. and Mr. James Russell Wiggins, Executive Editor, Washington Post, who got us a special article by Mr. Joseph Paull, Assistant Managing Editor. I must also acknowledge the valuable assistance given me by Mr. D. V. Vasudevan Jt. Secy. Mr. V. S. Padmanaban Treasurer and several others who helped me throughout August to bring out this bumper issuer

Wanted—Opportunities

The Reporters have many grievances. I do not want to catalogue all of them here. But I should take this opportunity to appeal, in the name of the Guild, to Editors and managements of Newspapers and periodicals to provide their Staff reporters with greater opportunities and encouragement to rise to their full stature and effectiveness. Journalism is a highly complex, creative and intellectual work. Reportage is more so. This is recognised in many countries in the West, where journalism has made great strides. In those countries reporters are respected members and even leaders of not only of the community, but also their editorial staff. And Reporters with proved talent and stature end up as Editors. But in India it is a tragic irony that most of the reporters, retire, or die as reporters. Only other members of the Editorial staff are considered to be good enough for promotions, and they walk away with all the best! It would be only fair if Reporters are not kept apart as a class, when posts in higher cadres fall vacant. The Reporter by the very nature of his work, the variety of jobs he does, the varied and rich contacts he developes, the insight he gets of the psychology and the reactions of the mass of people of all strata of society, and the amount of goodwill he creates for his newspaper, is eminently qualified to hold any important and responsible post in a newspaper. I would, therefore, appeal to managements to give reporters adequate incentives and encouragement so that the urge in a Reporter to do better than his colleagues on a rival paper, would not be stifled.

I am making a special reference to this aspect becauae there are unfortunately even today, some men in charge of the managerial section who naively imagine that the readers buy the day's paper to look at the latest advertisements, and that therefore the advertisement canvasser is more important than even the Editor or the News Editor, not to speak of the poor Subs and Reporters. It is high time, in the interest of their own newspapers that these men realised that in the long run a publication's success must spring from editorial enterprise and efficiency. It cannot be supported by advertising skill alone".

Training Abroad

I would also appeal to newspaper managements to think more in terms of providing to their reporters some kind of a training in foreign countries, where journalism has made phenomenal strides. Besides widening the vision of the Reporters and enriching their equipment, such overseas training would definitely. pay in the long run attractive dividends to the newspapers employing them. In this connexion I should not fail to mention that opportunities are already provided by some of the advanced countries of the West for Indian journalists to visit their countries. But the endeavour would be more fruitful if Indian Newspaper establishments also complemented it by sending their own reporters for training and study abroad.

Another need of City Reporters is the issue of some sort of identity cards or passes to enable them, in any emergency or during visits of V. I. Ps. to go, without any obstruction or harassments, through even police cordons to discharge their duties by the readers. Any amount of special passes, designed for particular occasions, do not very much improve the existing situation by which reporters are seriously handicapped. We therefore feel a system of photo passes might be introduced for all Staff Reporters of newspapers in the City so that we could, on the strength of this identification move about freely. The Commissioner of Police, or the Home Ministry could issue these passes.

Accreditation

The question of accreditation of reporters has been hanging fire for a long time now. We feel that the Government, should, in consultation with organisations like the Reporters' Guild, the M. U. J. and newspaper managements find satisfactory solution to this question and introduce a workable system of accreditation soon. Many State Governments have already done it.

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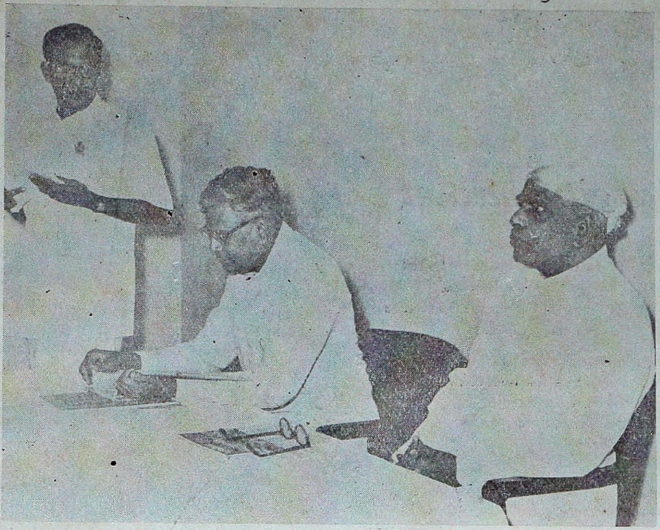


Mr. Parthasarathy welcomes the guests

Contd from page 4

person in this country. We are grateful to you, Sir, that in spite of pressing engagements and multifarious activities, you have kindly accepted our invitation to preside over this function and given us your blessings and advice.

To our Honourable Minister, Sri Venkataraman, we offer our hearty welcome He is no stranger to Reporters in the City although this is the first time he is participating in one of our functions. His relationship with the working journalists of which Reporters, I daresay, form a vital section, has always been cordial. By his intimate knowledge of the problems of working journalists and his sympathy for their legitimate aspirations, he has endeared himself to us. Let me take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to you, Sir, for the solicitude and the fair-minded manner with which you always look at any problem confronting the employers or the employees. We are indeed very happy that Mr Venkataraman has made himself available to us today and participate in our Anniversary and also to release the second annual number of our monthly journal "NEWSMAN"

A Coincidence!

It is a happy coincidence, that both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper Chamber of the Madras Legislature should meet in a common platform today, not across the table, but cheek by jowl, facing an array of City newsmen, and our good friends who have responded to the Guild's invitation.

This is not, however, a political forum, and let me confess that the Reporters have no politics so far as their work is concerned. Objectivity is their creed, and anonymity, the badge of their tribe. The Reporters' Guild has no political affiliations, it is a purely professional body, not a trade-union organisation. It serves as a meeting place for reporters and correspondents in the City to exchange thoughts, discuss day-to-day affairs, so as to infuse a spirit of camaraderie and foster friendliness between newsmen and new's sources and for developing a high standard of professional conduct, and integrity.

Mr. D V. Vasudevan Jt. Secretary Said:

It is my pleasant duty to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the distinguished guests of the evening. We are particularly thankful to Dr A. L Mudaliar and Hon. Mr R. Venkataraman for having honoured us by their presence here today and for their words of advice and encouragement.

Our thanks are also due to our other guests and well-wishers for having accepted our invitation and participated in our anniversary celebrations.

Mr. V. S. Padmanaban, Treasurer, earlier, read messages of good wishes from Union and State Ministers, The Mayor of Madras, Mr. Michael Stephens, B. B. C. representative in India & others.

Dr. A. L. Mudaliar

(Contd. from page 2)

with these things. I realise that the Press in India is not in affluent circumstances but, I would appeal to the government to see how well they could utilise the Press in this direction. I am certain that Government will be doing a service to themselves and to the people if they try to depute some of the press representatives to foreign contrics to bring, unofficial information which they alone can bring, particularly in the economic field Some of the papers are indeed advanced to a great extent. But still more has to be done.

Rewards

I have no doubt whatsoever that the reporters have played a noble task in this part of the country. I certainly welcome their stand that they should not be left merely as reporters. The industry, zealous care and good work of the reporters must be rewarded not for the sake of the ind vidual but for the sake of the profesion, the paper concerned and in the interest of the welfare of the entire press. I fully endorse the the suggestion that for all practical purposes newspaper Reporters must have a prominent place.

Icongratulate you on the step you have taken to improve your own organisation and make yourself felt as a body corporate. There is always a risk that newspaper scoop is a chief event that anybody wants to get. You want to see that yor brother reporters do not get that news item. It is true sometimes it is necessary but normelly you have a more liberal spirit.

Newspaper reporter is a good sleuth hound. He is the person who unearths mysteries, even in cases of criminal offences long before the police are able to get information on them. This sometimes helps the police very much though occationally the reporter might sidetrack the police.

One thing I would appeal to you very earnestly I regret to see that there has been a great deal of degeneration in in the press in other countries I found in England—many times I expressed my great regret—excepting for the top half a dozen papers, there has peen a regrettable lack of decency in the papers that are being published. I hope and trust that so far as our country is concerned, it will never happen It is no use appealing to the sordid aspects of life featuring crime and sex stories. I hope we will maintain the highest traditions in this regard. I wish your Guild every success.

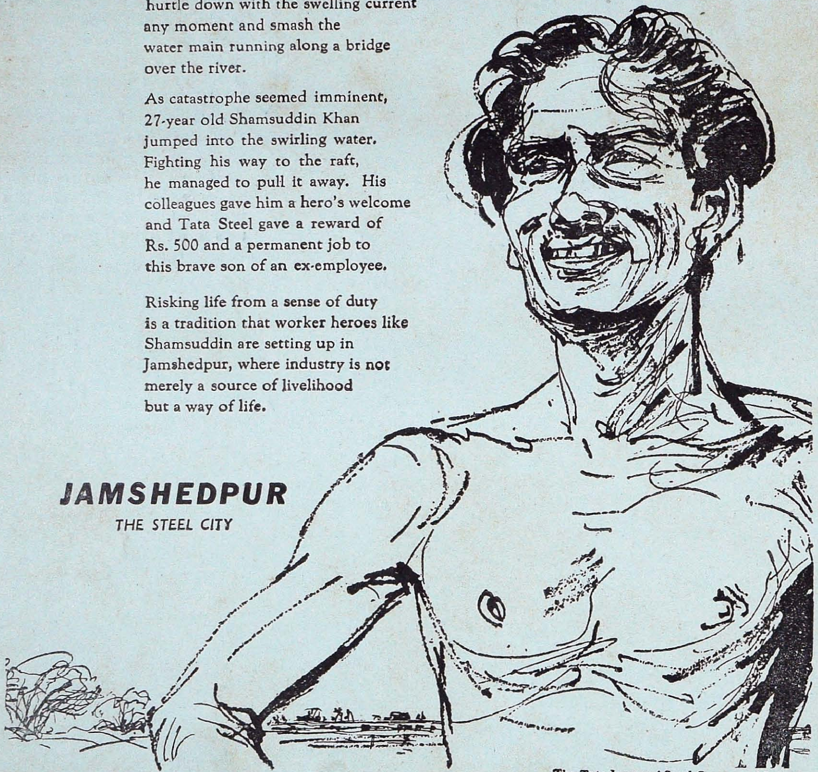
saving the city's water supply

On 1st October 1959, as rain and cyclone lashed Jamshedpur, a small group of Tata Steel workers hurried to a reservoir adjoining the Subarnarekha to save the city of Jamshedpur from a major disaster.

A raft, cut adrift by storm, stood poised on the very brink of a dam separating the reservoir and the river . . . threatening to hurtle down with the swelling current any moment and smash the water main running along a bridge over the river.

As catastrophe seemed imminent, 27-year old Shamsuddin Khan jumped into the swirling water. Fighting his way to the raft, he managed to pull it away. His colleagues gave him a hero's welcome and Tata Steel gave a reward of Rs. 500 and a permanent job to this brave son of an ex-employee.

Risking life from a sense of duty is a tradition that worker heroes like Shamsuddin are setting up in Jamshedpur, where industry is not merely a source of livelihood but a way of life.



JAMSHEDPUR

THE STEEL CITY

TTN 4086

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